

Somehow this Congress thought, let's tax medical devices, tools that people with disabilities depend on every day. Was this the right thing to do? I don't think so. Some thought taxing pacemakers, hearing aids, prosthetics, and wheelchairs was okay, it's acceptable. If that isn't an example of broken government, I don't know what is. It's not okay. It's not acceptable. Taxing our disabled population is flat out wrong.

9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. This week when the House considers the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, my colleagues will have a simple choice: to vote to protect foreign corporations who are avoiding paying U.S. taxes or vote to protect those who stood in protection of us on 9/11.

It has been almost 9 years since our Nation was attacked. Three thousand lives were lost, including that of my cousin, Battalion Chief John Moran. Thousands more were injured, particularly those who spent days and months cleaning up Ground Zero.

Our Nation stood together in the aftermath, defiant against those who attacked us, committed to never again let a terrorist attack occur on American soil. And we stood with the thousands who came to Ground Zero, first to look for survivors and then to clean up.

Tomorrow, the House will get a chance to fulfill our thanks to those who served us. Thousands were told by the Federal Government, "the air is safe, return home," go back to work. Thousands were told that a flimsy medical mask would keep them secure and to keep searching, keep cleaning up Ground Zero. But the air was not safe and now thousands are sick.

We have a commitment to those who served us. We have a duty to pass the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Vote "yes" tomorrow. Make our Nation proud.

ANOTHER SETBACK FOR VIETNAMESE HUMAN RIGHTS

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year local authorities in Con Dau, Vietnam, announced the demolition of properties to make way for a tourist resort. No plans for adequate compensation or relocation were offered. At the same time, the government posted a sign forbidding burials in the local church cemetery, which, for more than 100 years, had served as the town's burial site and which the government had recognized as an historical site.

On May 4, 2010, Da Nang police intervened in the funeral of Mary Dang Thi

Tan, preventing her burial at the cemetery and brutally beating 59 of the mourners. When 43-year-old Mr. Nam Nguyen refused to make false statements to authorities about the mourners, he was beaten by police and died at his home shortly thereafter.

Along with many others, this incident shows that the Government of Vietnam has no respect for human rights. To make matters worse, they defended and protected those who committed these outrageous acts.

If our Nation is to be recognized as a beacon of democracy and an advocate of human rights, we must demand the same from those we work with, especially from Vietnam, whose human rights record is atrocious.

What happened to Mr. Nguyen is an outrage and should be met with condemnation from our government and from this esteemed body.

CONGRATULATING WORLD CUP TEAM MEMBER HERCULEZ GOMEZ

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent and member of the United States men's soccer World Cup team, Herculez Gomez, on his performance in the World Cup.

Herculez Gomez, a former soccer star at Las Vegas High School, was a stand-out forward for the United States at the World Cup. With Team U.S.A. facing a 2-0 deficit in a match with Slovenia, Coach Bob Bradley turned to Gomez to come off the bench to provide a spark to his squad. Thanks to Gomez's energy and play-making abilities, Team U.S.A. rallied for a 2-2 tie.

Although we didn't prevail in the final competition, I want to congratulate Herculez Gomez and his teammates for their performance in the tournament. Their teamwork and passion inspired millions of fans throughout the United States and was just a preview of what U.S.A. soccer can do in the future.

I wish the best of luck to Herculez Gomez and welcome him home to District Three, where he is a local hero and role model to many aspiring young soccer players.

WE NEED A CONSTITUTIONAL BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT NOW

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I had an opportunity in my community, Sarasota, Florida, to talk to a couple hundred people, working families and small businesses. They've had to cut their expenses 20, 30 percent, but yet Congress is incapable of cutting its own expenses.

First 206 years, the history of our country, we accumulated a trillion dol-

lars. The last 9 months we accumulated a trillion dollars. Last year was a trillion and a half dollar deficit. You would think after last year we would cut the expenses, no. But this year, another trillion and a half dollar deficit. Next year they're projecting another trillion and a half dollar deficit.

You can talk about Greece. We're the next Greece. We have to have a constitutional balanced budget amendment. It's a bill I introduced my first year here. It just says simply you can't spend more than you take in. We need a constitutional balanced budget amendment now.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in recognizing the 75th anniversary of Social Security. Social Security has provided basic economic security for generations of Americans.

A woman from Tewksbury, Massachusetts, a city that I represent, recently wrote me to say, "I am retired and dependent on Social Security to survive. Please protect the benefits I've worked so hard for for many years."

Over the years, Democrats have fought to improve and strengthen Social Security. As a result, the Social Security Trust Fund has reserves of \$2.6 trillion, which will continue to earn interest and pay benefits until 2037.

But imagine if Social Security benefits had been invested in the stock market during the recent Wall Street crisis. Seniors would have lost billions of dollars in Social Security income, along with any retirement savings they had when the economy collapsed.

Despite what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would argue, subjecting Social Security to the whims of Wall Street is not the answer. We must be committed to strengthening Social Security so that our contract with American workers endures for generations.

HOLD ON TO YOUR WALLETS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. America, hold on to your wallets. NANCY PELOSI and the Democrats are coming after you with higher taxes—in the middle of a recession.

Come January, tax rates are going to skyrocket on hardworking, middle class families and small businesses. A new poll says 55 percent of voters in battleground States would be less likely to vote for Democrat congressional candidates if Congress doesn't stop or delay next year's scheduled tax increases before election day.